

CLAIMS:

1. Method of handling messages in an interface between an external network and an internal network comprising the steps of:

setting a first address according to a first addressing protocol to be used on a first port connected to the external network for transmission of messages according to the first protocol, where transmitted messages comprise messages including embedded messages according to a second addressing protocol and original messages according to the first protocol,

assigning a second port connected to a first part of the internal network as a port to be used for all messages not including embedded messages,

assigning a second address to the second port, which is closely related to the address of the first port, and

informing the first part of the internal network about the second port and its address, such that original messages according to the first protocol can be transferred between the internal network and the external network.

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the step of assigning the second port as a port to be used comprises setting the port as a default port for the first part of the internal network.

3. Method according to claim 1, wherein the address of the second port belongs to the same subnet as the address of the first port.

4. Method according to claim 1, wherein the address of the second port is at the same hierarchical level in the same addressing system as the address of the first port.

5. Method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:
receiving at least one message according to the first addressing protocol on the first port,

determining if the message includes an embedded message according to the second addressing protocol, and

in case the message does not include an embedded message according to the second protocol, forwarding the message unchanged to the second port for sending to the first
5 part of the internal network.

6. Method according to claim 5, wherein the step of determining includes analyzing the protocol field of the message header and determining that it is a message including an embedded message if the protocol field indicates this.

10 7. Method according to claim 5, further including the step of in case the message includes an embedded message extracting the embedded message according to the second protocol from the message according to the first protocol and forwarding the extracted message to a second part of the internal network.

15 8. Interface device for routing of messages between an external network and an internal network including:

a first port connectable to the external network for transmission of messages according to a first addressing protocol and having a first address according to the first
20 protocol, where transmitted messages comprise messages including embedded messages according to a second addressing protocol and original messages according to the first protocol,

a second port connectable to a first part of the internal network and a control unit arranged to:

25 assign the second port as a port to be used for all messages not including embedded messages,

assign a second address to the second port, which is closely related to the address of the first port, and

30 inform the first part of the internal network about the second port and its address, such that original messages according to the first protocol can be transferred between the internal network and the external network.

9. Device according to claim 8, wherein the control unit is arranged to set the second port as a default port for the first part of the internal network and communicate this to the first part of the internal network.

5 10. Device according to claim 8, wherein the address of the second port belongs to the same subnet as the address of the first port.

11. Device according to claim 8, wherein the address of the second port is at the same hierarchical level in the same addressing system as the address of the first port.

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12. Device according to claim 8, wherein the first port receives at least one message according to the first addressing protocol, and the control unit is further arranged to:
determine if the message includes an embedded message according to the second addressing protocol, and

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to forward, in case the message does not include an embedded message according to the second protocol, the message unchanged to the second port for sending to the first part of the internal network.

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13. Device according to claim 12, wherein the control unit is arranged to analyze the protocol field of the received message header and treating the message as a message including an embedded message if the protocol field indicates this.

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14. Device according to claim 12, wherein the control unit is arranged to, in case the message includes an embedded message, extract the message according to the second protocol from the message according to the first protocol and forward the extracted message to a third port for sending to a second part of the internal network.

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15. An internal network for communicating with an external network comprising:
a first part and
an interface device connectable between the first part and the external network, said interface device comprising:

- a first port connectable to the external network for reception of messages sent according to the first protocol and having a first address according to a first addressing protocol, where received messages comprise messages including embedded messages

according to a second addressing protocol and original messages according to the first protocol,

- a second port connected to the first part of the internal network, and
- a control unit arranged to:

5 assign the second port as a port to be used for all messages not including embedded messages,
 assign a second address to the second port, which is closely related to the address of the first port, and
 inform the first part of the internal network about the second port and
10 its address, such that original messages according to the first protocol can be transferred between the internal network and the external network.

16. Computer program product comprising a computer readable medium to be used on a computer connectable between an internal and an external network and having a
15 first address according to a first addressing protocol to be used on a first port connectable to the external network for transmission of messages according to the first protocol, where transmitted messages comprise messages including embedded messages according to a second addressing protocol and original messages according to the first protocol, said computer readable medium having thereon:

20 computer program code means, to make the computer execute, when said program is loaded in the computer:

 assigning a second port connectable to a first part of the internal network as a port to be used for messages not including embedded messages,
 assigning a second address to the second port, which is closely related
25 to the address of the first port, and
 informing the first part of the internal network about the second port and its address, such that original messages according to the first protocol can be transferred between the internal network and the external network.

30 17. Computer program element to be used on a computer connectable between an internal and an external network and having a first address according to a first addressing protocol to be used on a first port connectable to the external network for transmission of messages according to the first protocol, where transmitted messages comprise messages

including embedded messages according to a second addressing protocol and original messages according to the first protocol, said computer program element comprising:

computer program code means, to make the computer execute, when said program is loaded in the computer:

- 5 assigning a second port connectable to a first part of the internal network as a port to be used for messages not including embedded messages,
 - assigning a second address to the second port, which is closely related to the address of the first port, and
 - informing the first part of the internal network about the second port
- 10 and its address, such that original messages according to the first protocol can be transferred between the internal network and the external network.